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THIRTY-FOUR DEATH TOLL IN AIR WRECK

Airship Roma In Flames As It Crashes To Earth, Prevents Rescue.

Norfolk, Va., Feb. 21.—Thirty-four men were killed, eight were injured seriously and three were uninjured or only slightly bruised when the giant airship Roma, with her crew and a number of civilians, totaling forty-five in all, aboard, plunged today from a thousand feet or more in the air to the ground at the Hampton Roads naval base.

The accident presumably was caused by a broken rudder and as the huge dirigible plunged to earth it capsize across a high-tension electric line, bursting into a roaring furnace of blazing hydrogen gas.

Long after dark tonight, many hours after her fall, the ship was still a mass of flames from end to end of her 416-foot mass. The fire fed on the million cubic feet of gas which distended the great bag for the flight and made all attempts at rescue work futile.

Barely a dozen of those aboard were picked up alive, and one of these died on the way to the hospital. All of those who survived the fire escaped by jumping as the ship struck. The others, penned in the hull of the fallen bag, were burned to death.

Thirty-three Bodies Found.

The flames finally were brought into submission by three fire departments, who fought them with chemicals. And then derricks began picking up the wreckage, which consisted of scarcely more than the aluminum framework and the six Liberty motors of the once proud ship of the air. Within the wreckage lay the bodies, practically all charred beyond recognition. But before the night had passed thirty-three bodies had been removed accounting for the last of those who were known to have taken flight on the fatal voyage.

Accounts of survivors and of eye-witnesses as to what had happened appeared to agree tonight that the huge kite-like structure of the stern rudder, itself as large as a bombing plane, had slipped to one side as the Roma drove along a thousand feet above the army base.

She was making a trial flight with a new battery of Liberty motors.

They were installed to replace Italian engines bought with her in Italy, but which have not proved satisfactory. Installation was completed at Langley Field two weeks ago.

It was just before 2 o'clock when those below at the army base at Hampton Roads, their attention caught by the approaching thunder of the six motors, looked up to see the Roma dip down from her straight flight. They agreed that the rudder seemed to have slipped bodily down and to one side.

Missed Safety By Few Yards.

The ship nosed steeply down. As she came closer it was seen that her crew was hurling out sand from the ports in the fragile fabric that formed the covering of the space between her keel and back, the living and operating quarters of the ship. The dipping blunt nose of the bag did not respond. On the ship came, unchecked in her glide earthward, head first. Her commander could not force her the few hundred feet that would have dropped her into the waters of the bay and comparative safety for her people.

Below ran the high double wires of the high power electric line. They carried a 2,300-volt current. The Roma's nose, shed with its aluminum guard, struck into the wires, broke them as the ship flattened to earth and rolled over, and the next moment came the noise as of an explosion and the flames burst out along the hull space.

There was a rush of men to the rescue from the army post and the navy base beyond.

Just as the Roma neared the wires two men were seen to leap from high up in her slanting hull. As the stricken, flaming monster writhed in her first death agony ten more dropped from doors or ports, or through holes they tore in the fabric sides that enclosed them. Some leaped from the platform where the engines stood, far out from the hull.

So swift was the flare of the gas

flame that rescuers were driven back before its terrific heat. They watched helplessly as the great eighty-foot bag shriveled in the fierce blaze of the liberated gas. The Roma was a wall of flame a city block long and until the thousands of gallons of chemicals and water had checked the holocaust it was impossible to reach the comrades mangled and dead in that fiery furnace.

The ship left no passenger list behind her when she set out for a brief trial run from Langley. She is known to have carried many officers and men as passengers, however, in addition to her operating crew. As she rose from the field her commander leaned out to signal that he had forty-four persons aboard. It is believed he did not include one civilian on the ship and that she actually carried forty-five.

Officers who knew personally many of the officers and enlisted men were unable to identify a single one of the victims so badly charred was each—virtually cooked to death in the mass of wreckage when the explosion and flames encompassed them.

Only those in the formal part of the operating compartment of the ship had a chance for their lives. Several were injured severely by jumping but three came out practically unhurt and were discharged from the hospital within a few hours after the disaster.

Lieutenant Burt, who, with Captain Reed, was the principal pilot of the Roma, was one of these. He jumped when the ship was only a few yards from the ground. A civilian, Roy Hurley, also escaped unhurt, as did Master Sergeant Peek.

Of the forty-five who left the Langley Field air station this afternoon, only eleven survived the accident. Some of these, more dead than alive, lay on their cots at the United States Public Health Service Hospital with burned and broken limbs swathed in bandages. Some had their faces smeared with cream to relieve them of their intense suffering, while others lay asleep or unconscious with only their closed eyes visible. All who were able to talk were suffering from shock.

Maj. J. D. Reardon, who was in the control cabin at the time of the accident, said that the work of the officers in charge was excellent.

"Lieutenant Burt and Captain Mabry were at their wheels," the Major said, "the ship gave a duck and I saw Lieutenant Burt pull with all his might, on the elevator lever. He yelled out, 'she won't respond,' and then 'cut the motors.' One by one, I heard the motors shut off and then we struck. If the motors had not been shut off we would have hit the ground much harder."

NOCREEK REVIVAL VERY SUCCESSFUL

The series of revival meetings commenced some time ago at Nocreek, Wesley Chapel, are still in progress and much good is being done in that community. Yesterday's reports showed 42 professions and a general revival of spiritual interest in the church. The preaching by Miss Alpha Cochran, Evangelist, is bringing results and is much complimented by those attending the services.

MRS. REBECCA MARKS, LONG ILL, SUCCEUMBS

Mrs. Rebecca Barnett Marks, widow of the late J. W. Marks of Louisville, died at her home in Crestwood, near Louisville, Tuesday February 21st, after an illness of three years duration.

Mrs. Marks was a daughter of the late Lowry Barnett, born and reared in Ohio County, near Beda, and has many relatives and friends residing in various parts of the County. She was a sister-in-law to Mrs. T. S. Marks of this city.

Burial of the remains will take place in Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, to-day.

FIFTEEN POUNDS OF COIN FOUND IN MAN'S POCKETS

Boston, Feb. 21.—Coins weighing fifteen pounds were found today in the pockets and lining of the clothing of Solon R. Handy, 92 years old, peddler, by attendants in the hospital where he was treated after being struck by a taxicab. The money, in nickels, dimes, quarters and half dollars, as well as a few foreign pieces, amounting to \$184.

SINN FEIN BARS SPLIT ON PACT

3 Year Delay In Election Proposed; To Await Developments.

Dublin, Feb. 21.—There is a possibility that a split in the Sinn Fein over the Anglo-Irish treaty will be avoided. The Ard Fheis, national Sinn Fein convention, which met at the mansion house today to define the attitude of the Sinn Fein clubs on the treaty, whether for a free state or a republic, adjourned until tomorrow with instructions to the leaders of the two parties to come together and devise a plan to keep the Sinn Fein organization united.

The unexpected outcome was due to the direct initiative of the meeting in general and was not prompted by the leaders. After Eamonn de Valera had presented a resolution pledging adherence to the constitution adopted by the Ard Fheis in 1917, looking to "international recognition of Ireland as an independent republic," and stated his objections to the treaty on republican principles, the debate, unlike the discussion in the Dail Eireann, did not settle down into an examination of the merits and demerits of the treaty.

Arthur Griffith, president of the Dail Eireann, replying to Mr. De Valera, reasserted that the treaty gave Ireland the opportunity it needed.

Cheers from both sides greeted the suggestion of Father Gaynor, an influential member of the standing committee, composed of both supporters and opponents of the treaty, for a three-years' postponement of the elections and proved that the sentiment of the convention was for unity in the organization in view of possible eventualities and that it should not be difficult for Mr. De Valera and Mr. Griffith to reach an arrangement avoiding disruption of the organization on which Ireland, in the case of a breach between the British ministers and Ireland, might be compelled to rely.

De Valera argued that elections at present would be unfair because the Irish people would have only the vaguest idea of what they were offered in exchange for the republic. Michael Collins did his best to meet this objection and indicated that he did not desire that the elections be rushed but was unable to give a guarantee against elections. He pointed out that so long as the elections were delayed it was open to the supporters of De Valera to defeat the provisional government in the Dail Eireann and that defeat by even one vote on a minor point would compel the government to resign.

Mr. Griffith emphasized the same points and charged De Valera was trying to avoid a decision by the people. De Valera resented this and meeting the objection of Collins and Griffith that they could not guarantee that Mr. Lloyd George would not force elections, contended that no elections could be held without the sanction of the Dail Eireann and the army.

Subsequent speakers reinforced the plea that the leaders should endeavor to avoid a split, the most notable being priests, who, without exception took this line. The matter finally was settled by the intervention of Richard Mulcahy, minister of defense and head of the army. Mr. Mulcahy framed a resolution directing that the leaders meet tonight and seek a basis of agreement for submission tomorrow.

Several leading members of both sides, questioned later, expressed doubt as to the possibility of accommodation. Mr. Collins, however, was strongly of the opinion, which he voiced forcibly, that the situation would so improve that three months hence united decisions impossible now, might then be reached.

Despite the long-drawn out and arduous session in the cold and draught hall, the general tone of the convention was unexpectedly harmonious. It is unquestioned that the rank and file are earnestly desirous to prevent a split and every move toward the continuation of unity was heartily applauded. Just before adjournment both Mr. De Valera and Mr. Collins admitted they had entered the meeting believing a compromise was im-

possible, and that the attitude of the delegates surprised them.

So strong was the sentiment for unity that a priest, who suggested that the party leaders should be deposed if necessary to keep the organization intact, received applause.

OIL BOOM IS ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Operations have been commenced by Scott & Hickey, oil operators of Toledo, Ohio, on the farm of James Patton, five miles north-east of Hartford. The excitement has started in our little city. The oil men are commencing to come in from different fields and are hustling to secure leases.

The shallow well owned by Holbrook & Co., which was drilled to the depth of 462 feet over four months ago has been cleaned out and parked and is said to be doing eight barrels per day. The deep wells on the Carter farm which were drilled in more than twelve years ago and which have produced thousands of barrels of oil are still a paying proposition. The people here are expecting a big boom within the next few weeks.

IF UNITED STATES DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Is To Be From The Fourth District Why Not Make It An Ohio County Man?

Until the last few weeks, the personal of the to-be successor of W. V. Gregory, United States District Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, had been apparently settled. It seemed a forgone conclusion that Judge McKinzie Moss, of Bowling Green, would succeed Mr. Gregory, but these plans were foiled a few weeks ago when, unannounced, Judge Moss accepted the position of Assistant Commissioner of Internal Revenue. Since the announcement of his appointment to, and his acceptance of this position many possible candidates for the position of District Attorney have been mentioned in the public press of the State. But none so far mentioned have seemed to meet with general approval. The general trend of press comment, seems to indicate that the appointee should be a Fourth District man. If he is to be a Fourth District man, why not make it an Ohio County man?

We have a man in our midst that measures up to the requirements of the office in point of qualification, training, and adaptability, in the person of ex-Commonwealth Attorney, C. E. Smith. It is certain that the incumbent will be called upon to undertake a more systematic enforcement of the prohibition laws of the Federal Government. Has not Mr. Smith fully demonstrated his capabilities for such a task by his splendid services, while Commonwealth Attorney? It is the consensus of opinion of people who are familiar with the facts, that the State prohibition laws were more strictly enforced in the Sixth Judicial District, than in most any section of the State. This result was brought about, in a great measure at least, by the efforts of Mr. Smith. The other duties of the office are in line with the training, practice and experience of our fellow Countyman. Aside from the training which especially befits Mr. Smith for the position, he is yet a young man, active and vigorous.

We do not know whether Mr. Smith will be an applicant for appointment to the position, but feel sure he would not decline the position should it be offered him. Ohio is the largest Republican county in the Western part of the State, and is certainly entitled to substantial recognition in the selection of Federal appointees.

If the appointment is to come to the Fourth District, and it is logically and politically entitled to it, no better man can be found therein than our townsman, in fact we are of the opinion that no more suitable man can be found in the Western part of the State.

DISABLED OFFICER AID BILL PASSES SENATE

Washington, Feb. 12.—The Bursum bill, giving disabled emergency officers of the American expeditionary forces the same retirement privileges as regular army officers was passed today by the Senate, 59 to 14, and transmitted to the House.

NEW SHOALS BID UP TO CONGRESS

Alabama Power Company's Offer Barrier In Ford's Way

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—Announcement by Secretary Weeks today that he would submit to Congress tomorrow for acceptance or rejection the Alabama Power Company's offer to purchase and lease the Muscle Shoals nitrate and waterpower projects submitted to him Tuesday, added to the possibilities of further delay in Congress of consideration of Henry Ford's offer.

The Alabama company's offer, it was said, would be addressed tomorrow to the speaker of the House and president of the Senate and be referred by them probably to the Military Affairs Committee of the House and Agricultural Committee of the Senate, both of which are investigating the Ford proposal. Chairman Kahn announced tonight that the House body would include its study of the Ford offer before undertaking hearings on the new proposal, but would not report them separately to the House.

The plan in recommending acceptance or rejection of the offer to the full membership of the House, the chairman said, would be to prepare a joint report on all proposals Congress might receive. In this manner, it was explained, the Ford offer would remain in the committee's hands, preventing action by the House until all proposals the war secretary might submit were investigated.

Weeks Sees "Better Offer."

Mr. Kahn said he expected to conclude the hearings on Mr. Ford's offer this week and would immediately begin an examination of that from the Alabama Power Company which Secretary Weeks indicated today considered a "better offer" in some respects than that of Henry Ford, merits of each offer he transmits will be made known to Congress by letters of transmission accepting the proposals.

The House committee today interrogated J. O. Hammett, vice president of the Air Nitrates Corporation, a subsidiary of the American Cyanamid Company, of Maine, who defended the rights of the former concern to purchase nitrate plant No. 2 at Muscle Shoals upon as favorable terms as the government might accept from other private enterprises. He submitted a contract signed by the corporation and War Department officials under date of June 8, 1918, when it was agreed to build the plant and which contained a section extending optional privileges to the air nitrates subsidiary to buy the property should it be sold by the government.

"This constituted a solemn and binding agreement," Mr. Hammett said, adding that if it was violated by the government thru acceptance of the Ford proposal, the corporation would reluctantly instruct its attorneys to resist such action in the courts. He asserted that a decision by the government to disregard the agreement would reduce the standard of business morality to a lower degree than ever had been approached by a private concern.

Claim Prior Right.

He declared the proposal to "give the plant to a man who did nothing to develop it," and in addition, "give him the cheapest water power on the American continent," would be a violation of the government's pledge to the air nitrates corporation which he declared, had placed its every facility at the disposal of the country when the war needs were greatest. He explained that the nitrates corporation and the cyanamid company had lost money on government contracts, and denied statements previously made before the committee that the ten men who created the former concern had made profits aggregating \$2,000,000 from a capital of \$1,000 or \$100 each.

The witness explained that their nitrates subsidiary was formed in order that the holders of cyanamid company stock might be protected in failed to be carried out, but added that in each case the contracts were filled 100 per cent.

"All we asked for the use of the

patents and processes," he said, "was the right to buy the properties if the government decided to sell after the emergency. That was a necessary protection to ask, as they represented our greatest assets and we were anxious they should not be made available to a competitor."

LOCAL SCHOOL PAPER MAKES FIRST APPEARANCE

The H. H. S. (meaning Hartford High School) Wizard a paper edited and managed by the high school students, made its initial appearance last week. The journal is a credit to those responsible for its make-up, and should prove a big boost for the school. It is planned to issue it monthly during the remainder of the present semester.

RESIDENCE BURNED

The residence of Mr. John Chapman, near McHenry, was destroyed by fire Friday morning of last week. A portion of the household articles were saved from the flames. The loss is partly covered by insurance. Mr. Chapman suffered painful burns in attempting to extinguish the fire.

LOCAL GIRLS AGAIN HUMBLE GREENVILLE

Hartford High Takes Second Game From Couch Diddle's Quintette.

The Hartford High School girls, coached by a member of the clan of equalrighters that was not, but now is, Miss Florence Nelson, took coach Ed Diddle's High School Girls of Greenville into camp for the second time by the score of 8 to 7. This time it was on the local court and it happened Wednesday night, the 22.

The game was fast and full of thrills. No game was ever played on the local court wherein better guarding was witnessed, at least that is the general verdict of the fans and fanettes. Neither was it an old-time mother Hubbard sort of an affair. No sir! they mixed it up, it was a rub and it looked to us like the best team won. Almost every attempt at passing and team play was broken-up early in the effort. Harry May (we nearly said was the eleventh man on the floor) was the eleventh party on the floor, making the decisions throughout the game. Harry calls a good game, there has not been a kick on his work from any visiting team or coach during the whole season. If there was an off-side decision it was not given the home team, and we are not saying there were any.

The line-up was as follows:

Hartford	Greenville
Barnett 3 F	Tinsley 7
Clark 2 F	Dexter 0
Carter 3 C	Clemmons 0
King 0 G	Head 0
Kirk 0 G	Ford 0

Subs for Hartford Howard and Henry; for Greenville, Smith and Brooks. No changes were made in players during the game, those starting going the whole route. Three of the points made by Tinsley for Greenville were on free throws.

Something went wrong with the timekeeper's waterbury according to several fans who also kept tab on the time and if the time noted by said fans was correct three scores made by the visiting girls were landed in the overtime played. If there was an error in the time it was no fault of Greenville's however, as the Prophet kept the time and if there was an error in time we do not suppose it was intentional, as the fellow whose first name is Elijah and the next Thomas would not, on purpose, pull that sort of stunt.

MOORMAN LADY TAKES WOOD ALCOHOL, DIES

Mrs. Ruby Allen, wife of Chester Allen, died at her home at Moorman, late Monday evening of wood alcohol poisoning, deliberately administered by her own hand, so it is said, early in the day. Mrs. Allen was about 22 years of age and an attractive woman.

Funeral services were conducted from the home Wednesday morning, after which the remains were conveyed to Equality, this County, where interment took place shortly after noon.

Mrs. Allen was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarke Igleheart and besides her husband is survived by one child.